

INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2017
10:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mary Lou Bates; Cerri A. Banks; Erica Bastress-Dukehart; Grace Burton; Paul Calhoun; Greg Gerbi; Tim Harper; Lisa Hobbs; James Kennelly, Vice Chair; Kris Leggiero; Eric Morser; Levi Rogers; Max Fleischman '19 (for Kira Geary '18); Joseph Stankovich; Kim Verstandig; Michael D. West; and Joshua C. Woodfork.

PRESENT BY PHONE: Philip A. Glotzbach, Chair

ABSENT: Beau Breslin and Bill Duffy.

Called to order at 10:30 AM.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

IPPC **approved** the minutes from the September 8, 2017 meeting.

2. TED Talk: J. Jiang, “What I Learned from 100 Days of Rejection”

Cerri Banks, Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs, and Michael West, Vice President for Finance & Administration and Treasurer served as facilitators for this *TED Talk*. They indicated that they chose this talk for its inspirational message and demonstration of the power of a positive attitude. The presenter, J. Jiang, also showed that you can learn more from rejection and defeats than victories.

Grace Burton and Greg Gerbi volunteered to select a talk for the 10/6 meeting.

3. IPPC Annual Report 2016-2017

Joshua Woodfork, Vice President for Strategic Planning and Institutional Diversity, reminded the committee that this report reflects IPPC business from the last academic year and was prepared by Tim Harper, 2016-2017 IPPC Vice Chair, and IPPC Chair President Glotzbach. Joshua indicated that the report is information only, and does not require endorsement by the current IPPC.

Linda Hall, Associate Professor of English, submitted a letter to the IPPC requesting the committee follow up in finalizing the Smoking Policy. Copies of the letter were distributed to all members for their review; however, further discussion was deferred for a future meeting at which time the Smoking Policy will be addressed by the IPPC.

4. Strategic Action Agenda (SAA) 2017-2018

Jim Kennelly, Vice Chair, referenced the SAA and reminded members that when they reviewed the draft SAA during their last meeting, they had asked Phil to consider edits to the “preamble” section regarding free speech. Co-Chair of CEPP Erica Bastress-Dukehart offered her appreciation for the quick and thoughtful response by Phil and noted that she is fully in support of the new language.

Joshua reported that this document will be provided and discussed with the Student Government Association (SGA) Senate and to the Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Jim called for an IPPC endorsement of SAA. **By motion made and seconded, the IPPC endorsed the SAA by unanimous vote.**

5. Center for Integrated Sciences (CIS) Motions

Kelly Sheppard, CIS Faculty Coordinator, joined the committee for this discussion.

Phil reported that the Board of Trustees had a good conversation regarding the CIS during their recent phone conference. Trustees reviewed the same CIS documents previously reviewed by the IPPC. They agreed that given constraints on funding, it makes sense to proceed with that portion of the building that is fully funded at this time. During the Board call, Beau Breslin, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, and Jon Achenbaum, Chair of the Budget and Finance/Infrastructure Committee declared their full endorsement of this plan and the resolutions presented. Phil read the following motions which he reported were unanimously approved during the Board of Trustees conference call:

RESOLVED: That the Joint Infrastructure and Budget & Finance and Infrastructure Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees approval of the overall plan and program for the Center for Integrated Sciences as funding is available.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Infrastructure and Budget & Finance and Infrastructure Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees approval of the Center for Integrated Sciences North Wing in an amount not to exceed \$67.5 million to be funded by gifts, operating funds, and debt.

Phil asked the IPPC to endorse the resolutions, and opened the floor for questions and answers (Q&A).

Q What is the order of the phasing?

A First to complete new construction entirely and then complete renovations of old and new Dana.

Q Is it likely that the funds will come in during the construction of the first phase or very soon after, or is it anticipated that there will there be a four-to-six-year lapse between phases?

A Accurate forecasting of fundraising is not entirely possible, but the College is working hard to set aside the funds. At this time, it is not anticipated that this will stretch out across four or more years, and it remains our number one institutional priority.

Q Will breaking ground boost fundraising efforts?

A Traditionally the start of construction on a project does not boost fundraising efforts. But in this case, since we are clearly just beginning the first phase of a very large project, we anticipate that fundraising will not be negatively affected and, in fact, should be enhanced.

Q What is the maximum debt that college is willing to take on and how does this impact our credit rating?

A \$35 million is maximum at this moment. The debt should not negatively affect our credit rating at all.

Q How do we ensure the community that this debt won't impact jobs, the GSA, etc.?

A Leadership agreed that none of those items, GSA, financial aid, etc. would be adjusted. The financial plan for CIS does not include adjustments to these operational items. However, it will impact all other capital projects.

Hearing no further comments/questions, Jim Kennelly called for an endorsement of the resolutions previously presented:

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RESOLVED: That the Joint Infrastructure and Budget & Finance and Infrastructure Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees approval of the Center for Integrated Sciences North Wing in an amount not to exceed \$67.5 million to be funded by gifts, operating funds, and debt.

By a motion made and seconded, both resolutions were endorsed by unanimous approval with one abstention from a student member who informed IPPC that consultation with the SGA Executive Board was needed in order to cast this vote.

6. *U.S. News and Rankings*

Joe Stankovich, Director of Institutional Research, distributed the *US News and World Report* “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges” list. He pointed out that Skidmore is ranked 41. He also provided a report (grid) that goes back to 2002 which breaks out Skidmore’s ranking. He noted that the College’s graduation rate is up, we are down in academic reputation (due to peer and counselor ratings), and alumni giving is down (at the lowest rank that we have ever been). Only three top 50 schools are lower than Skidmore for alumni giving on this *US News and World Report* “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges” list.

Joe explained that “reputation” is garnered by surveying high school guidance counselors and college presidents, deans, and admissions directors. Guidance counselors queried have a 7% response rate, while the deans and presidents have a 41% response rate. He also pointed out that the data results in a number of ties, so when the college drops some number of spots, it may not actually represent a significant drop in our numbers. Joe reported that Skidmore was once again rated an “A+ schools for B students.”

Joe reviewed a document titled, “Skidmore College: Publisher Ranking Tracker,” which he noted includes a list of what has been published to date. Thanks to the great work of Skidmore’s Sustainability Office, Skidmore is ranked 34 for green colleges. The Skidmore Communications and Marketing Department has developed an online presentation of Skidmore rankings, which is available on the Skidmore website.

7. **Call for Agenda Items**

The following items were noted for future IPPC consideration:

- Smoking Policy
- Protection of Minors Policy

The meeting concluded at 11:50 a.m.

Please inform the President’s Office of any changes to these minutes.